

an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Troy Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Troy Elementary.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB PARKS

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary man who has repeatedly defied the odds and has embodied the spirit of my district in Colorado. The man I am referring to is Bob Parks and the odds he defied was whether he would live or die. Bob suffers from cancer and by all accounts, he should not be with us today.

Bob has much to be grateful for these days. Over a year ago, he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in his lung. Relying on an oxygen bottle, Bob was given little hope for recovery. Following a turn for the worse and with no salvation in sight, Bob learned of a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico that specialized in alternative medicines. He arrived last December and fell into a coma soon after arrival. His prognosis was grim and friends and family in Durango were informed yet again that his life was in jeopardy.

Bob held on, and with hope and prayer, he has unexpectedly recovered his strength and continues to defy his illness. Residents of Durango, Colorado, recently collected funds to fly Bob home for a visit and noted, in an article in the Durango Herald, that he looks stronger than ever and his recovery is nothing short of a miracle. Bob, who is a former psychology professor at Fort Lewis College and a greeter for the Wal-Mart, believes his recovery is due in part to an optimistic attitude and prayer from his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, we hear everyday stories of survival, hardship, and recently terror. It's gratifying at this time in our nation's struggle that a story unfolds about a man unwilling to give up his most cherished gift, his life. As so many suffer in this nation and around the world, let some of these people look to Bob Parks as a model to never give up on life, no matter what the odds faced. It is an honor to tell his story to this body and Congress and I wish him the best in the coming new year.

#### REGARDING THE SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

##### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on November 27, 2001 I introduced the Small Business Economic Recovery Act to help struggling small businesses survive.

Countless small businesses have suffered significant economic injury since the Sep-

tember 11 terrorist attacks. Some suffered direct economic injury as a result of closed and damaged buildings. Many more have suffered from the economic fallout caused by an economy that has plunged into a recession.

Small businesses are hurting and need help. The National Bureau of Economic Research announced that the United States entered a recession in March 2001. The Gross Domestic Product fell to 1.1 percent in the third quarter, and the unemployment rate has risen to 5.7 percent.

Prompted by the widespread economic impact of the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, on October 18, 2001 the Small Business Administration widened access to Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) for small businesses throughout the country. To qualify for these loans, small businesses must have suffered direct and substantial economic injury due to the terrorist attacks or the federal government's response to the attacks. This notion of "direct" injury will severely limit the Small Business Administration's ability to help all suffering businesses. Clearly a small business in an airport will qualify, but small businesses dependent on tourism may have a harder time proving that they were directly affected by the terrorist actions.

Even though 11,659 small businesses outside of New York City and Arlington, Virginia have requested Economic Injury Disaster Loans applications, the Small Business Administration has only granted 100 loans. Small businesses who are suffering because the attacks plunged the economy into a recession cannot prove a direct relationship to the terrorist attacks. They cannot get the Small Business Administration's emergency loans. We must make sure there are no ambiguous rules that confuse applicants or make it difficult for the Small Business Administration to grant loans to struggling businesses.

I have introduced a bill that removes any ambiguities and ensures that the Small Business Administration can help all small businesses that need assistance. The Small Business Economic Recovery Act does not require businesses to prove that they suffered a "direct" injury as a result of the terrorist attacks. It permits any small business that has suffered "substantial economic injury" to obtain Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the Small Business Administration. Normally, businesses must be in a federally designated disaster area to receive these loans. My bill temporarily waives the federal disaster area requirement. Businesses will only have to prove that they suffered substantial economic injury. It will help businesses that cannot meet obligations as they mature, and pay necessary operating expenses.

The act will authorize the Small Business Administration to provide up to \$1.5 million in disaster assistance to a suffering small business. The interest rate on the loans will not exceed 4 percent per year, and the loan terms cannot exceed 30 years. This emergency assistance program will expire on September 11, 2002.

Small businesses represent more than 99% of all employers and employ 51% of private-sector workers. We must provide immediate assistance to help this vital sector of our economy.

I urge my colleagues to help small businesses and cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE CITY OF BLACKFOOT, IDAHO, ON ITS CENTENNIAL

##### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a place I call home. Blackfoot, Idaho is celebrating its centennial and as a resident of Blackfoot, I'd like to share with you what makes it an all-American town.

Nestled in the Snake River Plain, Blackfoot, Idaho in Bingham County produces more potatoes than any other place in the world. The "famous" Idaho potatoes that the world enjoys come from Blackfoot and the numerous potato fields that surround it. In fact, Blackfoot offers "free taters for out of staters" at its Idaho Potato Expo Museum. It's made Blackfoot the Potato Capitol of the World by producing more than 200 million pounds of potatoes every year.

While Blackfoot is celebrating 100 years of incorporation, its history expands to the early 1800s. The first reference to Blackfoot is found in the 1818 journals of the Hudson Bay Company. In 1860, Grove City, where Blackfoot now sits, was settled to accommodate freight wagons bound for mines in central Idaho. Like many western settlements, the establishment of the Utah and Northern Railroad opened expansion and immigration. Then in 1878, the train arrived in Blackfoot on Christmas Day.

Using the Snake River to irrigate the fertile lava soil, pioneers and settlers found Blackfoot to be a prosperous agriculture community. Blackfoot became the county seat for Bingham County and at one time held the largest population in the state with 13,575 people. In 1901, Blackfoot was incorporated and now celebrates its centennial.

As many of you know, when I'm not serving in Congress, I go home to Blackfoot. I grew up there, graduated from Blackfoot High School and chose to return after completing dental school. I started my political career in Blackfoot, serving on the city council for four years.

My wife, Kathy, and I have witnessed the kind heart and gentle spirit of many who live there. It's truly a place where everyone knows your name. I salute this community that has given me so much over the years. While it may be the potatoe capitol of the world, it's a place I prefer to call home. Congratulations to Blackfoot on 100 years of excellence.

HONORING MR. GEORGE ALVIN TERRY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Alvin Terry of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, December 19, 2001. A native Tennessean, Terry is a graduate of Columbia Military Academy and the University of Tennessee.